LPG distributing agencies operating in Ballia (UP)

*47. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pelased to state:

(a) the total number of LPG distributing agencies operating in Ballia district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the details of LPG distributing agencies allotted to persons belonging to SC/ST communities;

(c) if no such agency exists, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when Government are likely to provide LPG distributing agencies to SC/ST people in the above district?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Three (03) LPG distributorships are in operation in Distt. Ballia (UP).

(b) None.

(c) and (d) The existing policy provides for 25% reservation for SC/ST for the allotment of dealerships/distributorships. This 25% reservations is for the entire State. No district wise reservation is made. The policy followed is to grant SC/ST dealerships/distributorships in those districts/areas which are reserved constituencies for the Parliamentary/Assembly elections. Since Ballia does not fall under this category, SC/ST reservations has not been provided in Ballia.

Health care facilities to the Railway employees in Punjab

*48. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of health care facilities made available to Railway employees in the State of Punjab

(b) the number of places in the State where health care units like hospitals, dispensaries etc. are proposed to be set up during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) For providing health care facilities to Railway employees in the State of Punjab, 4 Railway Hospitals and 9 Health Units manned by 67 doctors and 515 para medical staff are functioning.

(b) There is no such proposal.

(c) Does not arise.

Fuel modification to curb pollution

*49. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pelased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen an article entitled "Fuel modification to curb polluiton" by Shri Anil Bedi, published in the 'Pioneer' of 21st June, 1997;

(b) if so, what is the perception of Government about the issues and facts mentioned therein; and

(c) whether Government intend to study the feasibility and desirability of suggestions made in the write-up?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of the effects of pollution due to vehicular emissions and have, therefore, initiated a number of measures to supply Greener fuels in the country especially in metropolitan cities. These include:—

(i) Introduction of Unleaded Petrol (ULP) in the four metros from 1.4.1995 and low lead petrol throughout the country from December, 1996. The supply of ULP would be further extended to the capitals of States and Union Territories by December, 1998 and throughout the country by March 2000.

(ii) Introduction of low sulphur HSD in the four metros and Taj Trapezium from 1.4.1996 and very low sulphur HSD in the Taj Trapezium from 1.9.1996. Very